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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

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WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 24 WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 14, 1912 WHOLE NO. 76

WEST VIRGINIA COAL MINERS

Washington, Sept. 14.—Recently an article appeared in the Baltimore Sun from a staff correspondent, dealing with the grievances of the miners in the Kanawha and Cabin Creek districts. The writer states that the question of wages is not the only one involved in the contest. The operators claim that the Pittsburg district has 2-100 of a cent per ton differential over the Kanawha field. This fact, however, is computed upon erroneous premises. The Pittsburg figures are based upon the short ton of 2,000 pounds, while the Kanawha figures are based on the long ton of 2,240 pounds, which, when figured out according to correct mathematics, gives the Kanawha field a favorable differential of 6.5 cents per ton. The company store and the company houses are other features which have aggrieved the miners. While the company claims it is not obligatory for the men to purchase their supplies at the companies' stores, yet it goes without saying that men are not given continuous employment who do not patronize the company store, and it is impossible to procure living quarters adjacent to the mines without renting company houses. One operator in summing up the difficulties said: "Labor is a mere pawn in the game." The increase demanded by the miners is only 2½ cents a ton for mining and other proportionate increases for men whose work is not the actual digging of coal. Aside from the demands for an increase, the miners also insist on reform in the system of docking, the employment of the check weighman, removal of postoffices from company stores, permission for the men to trade where they please, the payment of wages in cash every two weeks, payment for the mining of coal on the basis of the short ton, rental for houses based on fair terms of their cost, and the nine-hour day, ten hours being the length of the day now. The laws of the State provide that there shall be a check weighman at each coal tipple. The miners claim that in all non-union camps in the State not a single check weighman is employed. The docking system employed by the mine operators, according to the writer, is to a very large extent abused, one instance being given where a man had earned, according to the present scale, $3.50, and he was docked to the extent that he only received $1.08. The houses in which the miners live cost approximately $300, but $6 a month is the rental—producing 6 per cent on an investment of $1,200. It is not surprising that the miners in the West Virginia non-union fields are putting up a desperate fight to change conditions, and it is to be hoped that they will be successful.

NEW SYSTEM ADOPTED.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Upon the adoption by Congress recently of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill, many changes were ordered in the conduct of the various government departments. One provision requires that the work of addressing, wrapping, mailing, and otherwise dispatching government publications for public distribution, except maps, order reports, and order cards, and those circulars calling for the purchase of materials and supplies for such work, shall be done at the Government Printing Office. That prior to October 1 all machines, equipment, and materials used for such work shall be turned over to the Public Printer, and that all persons in the executive departments now engaged in such work, whose services can be dispensed with or devolved upon others, shall be dropped. Many of the executive departments and other government institutions have been distributing their own publications for years. The Department of Agriculture yearly averages between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 pieces, and at least fifty people have been exclusively engaged in preparing documents for the mail. The Department of Commerce and Labor is another large distributer of its own publications. The inauguration of this law will undoubtedly reduce the number of positions now held in doing this work in the various departments, but it may be that a large percent of these employes may find positions in the Government Printing Office when the transfer takes place.

STRIKE IS AVERTED.

New York, Sept. 14.—What portended to be the biggest strike in the building industry that this city has ever encountered was recently averted by an agreement to refer to arbitration the demands of the Sand and Excavation Teamsters against the Contractors' Protective Association. As a matter of fact, the strike was already in progress, and work on the new subway and many buildings throughout the city had been stopped, placing in idleness between 30,000 and 40,000 building mechanics. The strike was for the renewal of an agreement which expired last November, including a slight increase in wages and changes in working conditions.

CONVENTION CALL.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The call for the thirty-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, to be held at Rochester, N. Y., beginning Monday morning, November 11, 1912, has just been issued at headquarters. The meeting will be held in Convention Hall. A list of hotels and the per diem charge at each is given. Headquarters of the Federation will be at the Seneca Hotel. Reservations at any of the hotels can be secured by addressing the secretary of the convention committee, Peter Bohrer, 179 Williams Street, Rochester, N. Y.

SHINGLE WEAVERS.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 14.—Organizing work among the shingle weavers continues with great success. The fight for the union scale of wages is still on with the University Lumber and Shingle Company and the West Side Lumber and Shingle Company, of Portland, Oreg. These companies are being backed by the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Portland. The companies, however, are having difficulty in securing and keeping strike-breakers.

SECOND DARROW TRIAL.

Los Angeles, Sept. 14.—Presiding Judge Willis, of this city, has set the time of arraignment of Clarence Darrow on the charge of bribing Robert F. Bain, a McNamara juror, for October 21. The motion to quash the second indictment was denied by Judge Willis. The plea that all the evidence in the Bain case was adduced at the former trial, which resulted in the acquittal of Darrow, was ignored by the judge.

OPPOSE COMPULSION.

Newport, England, Sept. 14.—During the recent session of the British Trade Union Congress in this city, compulsory arbitration of trade disputes was strongly opposed by British trade unionists, and the delegates cast an overwhelming vote against the adoption of the principle. Nearly 2,000,000 members of the trade unions were represented by 530 delegates.

PRISONERS BADLY TREATED

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 14.—Declaring the House of Correction to be a penal institution exclusively, and not a corrective one, as is generally supposed, the board of city police magistrates has voiced a scathing criticism of the institution in the report it has made to the Governor of the State. The board declares that it has had its eyes opened, and while it believed that the men sent to the House of Correction were put to work on the farm, or on outside labor, it has found that the men are cooped up in contractors' shops and never allowed outside, and if they do not perform their allotted task, which is found in many instances to be rather severe, they are lashed as punishment. The board states that it appears that one of the chief ends of the institution was to make a favorable showing in financial matters, and that the interest of the contractors who conduct the shirt and mat factories in the institution, and of the State, came before the interests of the prisoners. This fact was made clear by the superintendent, who complained that the magistrates were sending men to the institution for too short periods for them to be of any use to the contractors, or to the State, stating that the magistrates should not send men for thirty or sixty days, because unless they came for at least three months, they would be of no use to the contractors. The magistrates further state that the institution is in a general unsanitary condition. As stated, prisoners are punished for slow work, the magistrates claiming this system has possibilities of great injustice. The Governor of the State is much exercised over this report, and measures are to be taken to inaugurate a thorough investigation.

OPPOSE INSURANCE PLAN.

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 14.—Organized labor and the employers of labor are divided on the question of a compulsory insurance law, and both sides will appear before the Industrial Accidents Commission, appointed by Gov. Tener, to draft a bill for a workmen's compensation act. To combat this proposed feature, steps have been taken to have the members of organized labor appear before the commission at its meetings to be held in this city, Pittsburg, and other sections of the State during this month and enter its protest against this proposed insurance law. The manufacturers of the State are opposed to any workmen's compensation act along the lines that have been suggested and tentatively drafted by the Accidents Commission. The manufacturers propose to have adjusters appointed to be named by the manufacturers, and they propose to pay 60 per cent of the wages a man has been receiving when he becomes totally disabled, and to pay it for the balance of the employe's life. The fact that the manufacturers propose to appoint an adjuster is in itself a condemnation of the plan, for self-interest would make it impossible for equitable decisions to be rendered in that event.

GOES TO ARBITRATION.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 14.—The employes of the electric railways of Chicago, after a long period of negotiations, have, from latest reports, decided to submit the entire controversy to arbitration. There are two companies involved in the wage dispute, and they insisted at one time upon having two separate arbitration boards. This was objected to by the street railway employes, taking the position that any arbitration award should be made equally applicable to both railway systems. President Mahon has been selected by the joint committee on carmen's negotiations to present the case of the carmen before the arbitration board. The Union Leader, the official publication of the Chicago carmen, comments upon this appointment as follows: "President Mahon's broad range of experience makes him a valuable man in an arbitration case. In contests of this kind in the past he has been opposed by some of the best lawyers in this country employed by the traction interests, and with all this talent arrayed against him has emerged successful and secured awards that have brought better conditions and increased wages to our membership, and elevated the standard of the street railway employes in general."

NEW DEPARTMENT HOME.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The Department of Commerce and Labor is to have a big new home in the down-town business section of the city within the next year. The building will be constructed large enough to house all the bureaus and divisions now in rented quarters and is to be leased for a term of five years. As is well known, many of the bureaus attached to the department are scattered in various sections of the city and this new move is for the purpose of marshaling together in one building the entire machinery of the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is believed that at the expiration of this five year lease the proposed big departmental building will have been constructed and then the department referred to will move into the government building.

HUNTING FOR MEN.

Sacramento, Sept. 14.—It is reported here, from sources deemed authoritative, that the Southern Pacific Railroad is having much difficulty in securing competent shop help to keep their locomotives in running order. Many of the strike breakers are leaving for the East and many are coming out and making common cause with the strikers. The motive power on the Southern Pacific is in such bad shape that trains are universally late.

ELECTRICIANS RETURN.

Hamilton, Canada, Sept. 14.—The local union of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which has been affiliated with the Reid or seceding faction since the split in the international union some years ago, recently took action to leave the seceding organization and to affiliate itself with the organization recognized by the American Federation of Labor. The decision of the local union to make the change of affiliation was arrived at by a unanimous vote.

COLORED WOMEN ORGANIZE.

Decatur, Ill., Sept. 14.—The colored women of this city, wives of union men, have organized an independent women's union label league. So far as is known this is the first auxiliary of colored women in the country and it is expected that much good will be accomplished among the colored population of this city.

CIGARMAKERS' UNION.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—President George W. Perkins states that Local Union No. 302, of that organization at Tecumseh, Mich., has secured an increase in the bill of prices of 50c on all jobs. The securing of the increased wage was attended with no friction.

FURRIERS WIN VICTORY

New York, Sept. 14.—The strike of the furriers has drawn to a close, and the workmen are returned the victors after a three months' struggle. The contest was of much moment, the striking men and women facing hardships and deprivations, yet they stood firmly until victory was secured. The American Federation of Labor, through its representatives, has conducted this contest from the very start, and the credit is due almost wholly to the efforts put forth by organizers of the A. F. of L. The victory secures to the furriers a forty-nine hour week, half holidays on Saturdays during the entire year, overtime pay at the rate of time and a half, payment for ten legal holidays, prohibition of tenement work, wages to be paid weekly in cash, wage scale to be set twice yearly, and the manufacturers pledging themselves that their contractors will abide by these terms. A permanent arbitration board is also provided for as well as provision for a joint board of sanitary control. The agreement is to run for a period of two years.

EFFICIENCY RATING.

Washington, Sept. 14.—If the present plans of the Civil Service Commission are carried out, every employe in the service of the governmental departments will find himself or herself working on an efficiency rating basis about November 1. He or she will find that an accurate record is being kept of all services required to be performed and how the work is performed. It is proposed that these records will show at any time a close estimate of an employe's services to the government, whether he or she is giving faithful service or slighting the task imposed. The government employes are very much concerned, and are anxiously awaiting the announcement of how the efficiency ratings are to be applied. How best to make the ratings show a fair record of each employe's services has only been solved in outline, and those developing the plan say that it has not progressed far enough to give any definite outline for publication at the present time.

MINERS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Moncton, N. B., Sept. 14.—The current issue of the Eastern Labor News, published in this city, carries an article in a recent issue relative to the miners in Nova Scotia, in which the following appears: "It is not generally known, but is a fact capable of proof, that the average amount received by those dependent on the coal industry of Nova Scotia for a livelihood, is less than it takes to keep paupers in the poorhouse of this country, even less than living expenses of the inmates of semi-penal institutions, and not more than inmates of the forty-six jails in Ontario eke out their miserable existence while explaining the crimes of murder, arson, rape, seduction, burglary," &c. It is figured out that each dependent receives $85 per year to live on, or something like 23 cents per day. In the governmental institutions, aside from penal and corrective institutions, the average cost per inmate per day ranges between 23 and 27 cents.

BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 14.—The United Brotherhood of Carpenters, according to a report just issued by Secretary Frank Duffy, made tremendous gains during the month of August. During the past few months the Weekly News Letter has frequently reported the progress made by this organization, and scarcely a week has passed that there has not been noted new organizations formed, increases in wages secured, and a betterment of conditions gained. During the month of August there were local unions chartered at the following places: Spencerport, N. Y.; Madera, Cal.; Martins Ferry, Ohio; Hawkinsville, Ga.; Holland, Mich.; Dayton, Ohio; Maryville, Tenn.; Lemoore, Cal.; two local organizations at Detroit, Mich.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Washington, Ill.; Buckner, Ill.; Deming, N. Mex.; Lakeworth, Fla.; Homestead, Fla.; Startford, Ontario, Canada, and Marianna, Fla.

IRISH LABORERS' COTTAGES.

Cork, Ireland, Sept. 14.—A Parliamentary paper shows that on March 31, 1912, the government had built in Ireland 39,241 laborers' cottages, and that 3,439 were under construction. Loans amounting to $38,465,877 have been sanctioned for these cottages, of which $34,441,670 has been received. The total amount of laborers' rent for the year was $553,904. In Munster province 16,122 cottages have been built and 1,638 are under construction. These cottages erected by the government are located chiefly in country districts, and, with one-half acre of land, rent to laborers at 24 to 36 cents per week, which is less than the amount charged for interest on the loans, the difference being borne by the taxpayers.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 14.—The secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers states that the local union of electrical workers of Perth Amboy, N. J., has been successful in negotiating a new agreement, carrying with it an increase in wages and better working conditions. New locals have also been chartered at Roanoke, Va.; Huntington, W. Va.; Syracuse, N. Y.; San Jose, Cal.; Ottawa and Hamilton, Canada, and Richmond, Ind. Organizing work in this organization is being carried on successfully in all parts of the country, and increases in wages and better working conditions are being gained over a large scope of territory.

NEW YORK FEDERATION.

Albany, Sept. 14.—The forty-ninth annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor will convene at Poughkeepsie Tuesday, September 17. The most important proposition to come before the State body is that of a workmen's compensation law. The State Federation was successful in 1910 in securing such a law, but the court of appeals declared it unconstitutional. A new bill was framed eliminating the provisions upon which the former law was declared unconstitutional, but it failed to pass the State Legislature of 1912. The State Federation will make it the paramount issue.

CARPENTERS' CONVENTION.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The United Brotherhood of Carpenters will open their biennial convention in this city on Monday, September 16. Auditing and other committees have been in Washington for some time completing the work allotted to them. It is expected that in point of delegates there will be a large attendance.

LABOR MAN RENOMINATED.

Reno, Nev., Sept. 14.—E. E. Roberts, a member of the labor group in Congress from Nevada, has been renominated.

FIGHT STARTED.

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 14.—The arrest of two American Federation of Labor organizers by the McKeesport police for distributing union labor literature at the homes of the unorganized employes of the United States Steel Corporation is the manner in which the Steel Corporation gives notice that it will refuse to permit its employes to join a labor organization. For some weeks organizers of the American Federation of Labor have been distributing literature printed in the various languages to the employes of the Steel Trust. Interest among these employes has been aroused to the point where evidently the Steel Trust fears that organizations will be perfected. The organizers were arrested upon the pretext of violating a city ordinance, but the ordinance itself in terms does not prohibit the distribution of literature in the manner which was adopted by the organizers. The men arrested were put in jail, and when effort was made to secure their release on bail, the Chief of Police at first refused, stating that no bail would be accepted, and that a fine of $50 in cash had to be paid before the organizers would be released. However, upon the appearance of an attorney the Chief of Police changed his mind and bail was accepted in the sum of $300 each, and the organizers were released after having been detained in jail about eight hours. At the hearing which followed shortly after, the police magistrate assessed fines of $10, the cost being $2.50 each. The fines were paid and a transcript of the cases demanded. The Steel Trust is evidently determined to continue its policy of using its tremendous power to thwart the effort of its employes to organize. The American Federation of Labor proposes, however, to continue its effort, and no matter what obstacles are encountered it is proposed to organize these men so that they may have a part in determining wages and conditions under which they are employed. There is no protection to-day for the men employed in the vast steel plants of the country, and aside from these works being charnel houses, long hours and low wages are the rule.

"SINS AGAINST LABOR."

Washington, Sept. 14.—During the closing hours of the recent session of Congress, Congressman H. Robert Fowler, of Illinois, delivered a speech in the House, with the above caption as his text. He dealt with the history of the movements of men and showed himself to be a student of the labor problem. The closing paragraph of his address is herewith given:

"The next great task for labor is a struggle for an equitable division of profits. While complete relief can not be expected to come all at once and everywhere at the same time, yet it may be attained more readily by the enactment of wise laws directing the course to be pursued by both labor and capital. The world owes a duty to labor which has not been faithfully discharged by legislative bodies in the past. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the time is now ripe for prompt action in this respect, for upon the success of labor depends the success of our institutions of liberty and learning. The mighty Roman empire crumbled and fell because of her abuse to labor. Her playhouses of crime lie in monumental ruins to remind the world of the magnitude of her sins against labor. Let us take warning from this sad example and in the sweat of our legislative duties accord to labor a just recognition of its rights, so that it may have an equal chance in the race of life for prosperity and happiness. We owe much to labor. It is our staff of life. It is our storehouse of supply. Yea more—it heard the voice of God in judgment against sin, and answered the righteous sentence in the sweat of its face for the adequate supply of human wants. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, labor found man in the jungles of barbarism and blood, conducted him safely through the winding, misty valleys of superstition and ignorance, pointed out the fruitful fields of knowledge, led him up the sober heights of judgment and reason, placed a crown upon his head, and transformed him into an intellectual and moral god."

NEW LAW EFFECTIVE.

Detroit, Sept. 14.—The Michigan new workmen's compensation law, enacted at the special session of the Legislature, went into effect on the first of the present month. The new law abolishes the defense of contributory negligence; the defense that the injury was caused by a fellow servant; the defense that the injured employe assumed the risk of his employment. The maximum amount of compensation for total and permanent disability is fixed at $4,000.

HOTEL EMPLOYES STRIKE.

Boston, Sept. 14.—Numerous hotels in this city are affected by a strike of cooks and waiters, which took place recently. The demands made in Boston are practically the same as those made elsewhere, and are based upon a request of $5 increase to waiters and shorter hours for all employes. The threatened strikes at several hotels have been prevented by the proprietors acceding to the demands.

BUTCHER SHOPS CLOSED.

New York, Sept. 14.—About 3,000 Kosher butcher shops were closed in this city recently as a result of a general strike of the union butchers. The strikers demanded a 20 per cent increase in wages and a twelve-hour day.

CIGARMAKERS TO MEET.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The International Cigarmakers' convention will convene in Baltimore, Md., on Tuesday, September 17, for the first time in sixteen years. A large attendance is anticipated.

BACK TO MILITANT UNIONISM

Washington, Sept. 14.—The American Federation of Labor receives newspapers and other publications from every part of the civilized world. Recently a publication at Auckland, New Zealand, found its way into headquarters, and is authority for the statement that the labor unions in that country are fast canceling their registrations under the conciliation and arbitration act, in order to be able to stop work at any time should they deem it advantageous to do so. It is also stated that these organizations are joining the recently organized New Zealand Federation of Labor, which advocates the principle of the right to strike. There is at present a miners' strike at Waiili, in the North Island, and, according to the same authority, this dispute, commenced more than three months ago, is being waged principally on the question of the right of the trade unions to withdraw from the conciliation board. Thus "the country without strikes," where compulsory arbitration has been in vogue, is witnessing a contest against a system which has been heralded throughout the world as a "solution of the labor problem."

PAPER STRIKE NEWS.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Sept. 14.—From the time that the papermakers struck against the paper mills in this city quietude has reigned supreme. Notwithstanding that fact the Sheriff has sworn in a large number of imported men as deputies for some unexplained purpose. These deputies have been scattered around the properties of the various paper mills. Since the beginning of the paper mill strike, mill owners are said to have scoured the country for competent help, and have not succeeded in finding enough skilled workers to operate their plants. It is assumed that the usual tactics are to be indulged in—that of employing bad men for the purpose of creating some kind of disturbance. The paper mill owners firmly assert that they cannot concede to the demands of the men because it means increased expense, but they are able to pay $4 or $5 a day for a large force of deputies. Developments will be awaited with interest.

EXPRESSMEN ORGANIZING.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 14.—The Brotherhood of Railway Express Messengers of America, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has inaugurated a special campaign for ninety days for securing additional members from the ranks of the express messengers. The brotherhood requested the co-operation of the A. F. of L. organizers in this campaign, and the executive council gladly complied. Special inducements are held out to organizers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and covers a period from September 1 to December 1 of this year. The initiation fee, including the first month's dues, is five dollars. Organizers are requested to communicate with Mr. William F. Morrison, Grand Messenger, 326-8 Lee Building, Oklahoma City, Okla., or with President Gompers, at Washington, D. C.

GOVERNMENT INTERESTED.

Boston, Sept. 14.—Acting under orders from Washington, the United States District Attorney has begun an investigation of the planting of dynamite at Lawrence, Mass., during the big strike, for which William M. Wood, president of the American Woolen Company, and two others have been indicted by a Suffolk County grand jury. The first move by Mr. French, United States District Attorney, was to assign a special agent located at Chicago, and the department's special agent in Boston, to investigate and accumulate facts for presentation to the grand jury, which will convene in the immediate future. The Federal authorities are chiefly concerned in finding if there was a shipment of dynamite into Lawrence from outside Massachusetts in violation of the interstate commerce act.

PIANO WORKERS WANT MORE.

New York, Sept. 14.—The piano manufacturers of this city are in receipt of a formal letter from the Musical Instrument Makers' Union, making a demand for a 15 per cent increase in wages. Manufacturers in discussing the demands denied the statement made that the wages of their employes have not increased in ten years, and say that the wages have kept abreast with the general increases in the wages in other trades. While nothing definite is yet known as to the position to be taken by the manufacturers it is stated that it is probable that the demands will be ignored. The Musical Instrument Makers' Union expect to take definite action on September 14 or shortly thereafter, providing negotiations are not pending and a favorable reply not having been received.

OHIO STATE BODY.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 14.—All unions attached to the Ohio State Federation of Labor have received notification that the annual convention will convene in Canton, October 14. It is expected that after the valiant and successful fight made by the Ohio State Federation of Labor to secure the adoption of the new constitution there will be a large delegate attendance. Many matters of importance will be taken up and plans formulated in an effort to secure the enactment into statutory law the new provisions favorable to labor which have been incorporated in the organic law of the State, and adopted at the recent election.

COMPENSATION PAYMENT.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 14.—The State industrial commission, of Wisconsin, acting under the Wisconsin industrial compensation act, has made an award of $2,400 to Mrs. Anna Nycek, whose husband was killed on the coal docks at Ashland. The amount awarded is four times the annual wage of the deceased. The coal company involved did not oppose the award.

BRICKMAKERS' CONVENTION.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 14.—The fourteenth general convention of the International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Alliance convened at Blue Island, Ill., on Monday, September 2. The convention included the largest number of delegates ever in attendance at a convention in the history of the organization. During the past year this organization has made rapid progress in membership and betterment of wages and conditions.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 14.—General Secretary-Treasurer William Weeks, of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, reports that a new lodge has been organized at Ionia, Mich., on the Pierre Marquette Railroad, with nearly fifty members on the charter list.

VICTORY FOR TRADE UNIONS

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 14.—The new constitution of this State, which was submitted to the people for their approval or disapproval, has been adopted by a large majority, save one or two provisions. The campaign against the adoption of the new constitution was vigorously conducted by big business people, and nearly all of the big newspapers of the State. In this particular it is pleasing to note that the newspapers, to a very large extent opposing the constitution, did not have sufficient influence to turn the tide of votes from the people in sufficient numbers to accomplish their object. Woman suffrage was defeated by a heavy vote, and one other provision is still in doubt. Some of the features in the new constitution are the initiative and referendum, providing that three-fourths of a jury may render a verdict in civil cases, abolition of capital punishment, empowering the Legislature to establish minimum wage laws and exercise a larger supervision over factories, the eight-hour day on public work, prohibiting the punishment of workers for violating injunctions issued in labor disputes, except after a jury trial, unless the offense has been committed in the actual presence of the court; providing for a State printing plant, abolishing convict labor, &c. This gives Ohio an up-to-date constitution, and the State Federation of Labor exercised a powerful influence in securing the adoption of the new organic law.

QUESTIONABLE AMENDMENTS.

Portland, Oreg., Sept. 14.—At the coming election in November there are to be two measures voted on which have been proposed by the Employers' Association. The first is "A bill for an act prohibiting boycotting or picketing any industry, workshop, store, place of business, or factory, or any lawful business or enterprise, and prohibiting enticing, persuading, or attempting to persuade or induce any person working therein from continuing such employment, and providing a penalty for violations of the act." The minimum fine proposed is $100, and makes it a crime for two or more people to agree not to patronize a particular business and to persuade others not to. The title of the other bill is "A bill for an act prohibiting the use of public streets, parks, and public grounds in any city or town of a population of 5,000 or over for holding meetings for public discussion or speech-making purposes without a written permit from the Mayor thereof." The trade unionists of the State are aroused over these two propositions, and an effective campaign is being waged in an effort to defeat both.

ATLANTA LOCKOUT.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 14.—As reported in the News Letter, the pressmen on the three daily papers in this city were locked out recently. The contract between the papers and webb pressmen expired on the 31st of August. Prior to its expiration negotiations were in progress looking to the execution of a new agreement. There had been no action taken by the pressmen to discontinue work beyond the expiration of the agreement while negotiations were in progress. It seems that the pressmen in each office were called in and asked to accept an agreement which had been drawn up by the newspaper owners and incorporated therein was an open-shop clause. Refusing to accept this kind of a settlement, the pressmen were promptly locked out. The fight against the papers is being waged with vigor.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY MEN.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 14.—President A. B. Lowe, of the Maintenance of Way Employes, asserts that wherever representatives of the maintenance of way men have met the officials of railroads, seeking an increase in wages and betterment of conditions, the result has been the satisfactory adjustment of all questions involved. On the government railways in Canada a notice has been forwarded to the officials asking a revision of the schedule, and it is expected that a substantial increase will be secured, as Canadian railway business is booming and with an immense amount of railway construction going on, the opportunity to secure substantial increases is good.

TEAMSTERS GET INCREASE.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 14.—Recently the teamsters in this city became involved in a reinstatement and wage controversy with one of the large teaming contractors. Unable to reach a satisfactory settlement, Secretary Hilfers, of the central body, took the matter up and was successful in securing wage increases of $1.50 per week for all men employed. The same is to go into effect at once, together with an additional wage increase of $1.50 per week to be effective January 1, 1913.

GARMENT WORKERS.

Indianapolis, Sept. 14.—The United Garment Workers' National Convention, recently held in this city, besides transacting a large amount of business during the session, made provision for much activity during the coming year. The salaries of President Rickert and Secretary Larger were increased by the convention, the increase being retroactive, dating back to the last convention. The salary of these officers is now $3,000 per year. The next convention to be held by the garment workers will be in Nashville, Tenn., in 1914.

WANT LABOR TEMPLE.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 14.—The local central body has just appointed a committee of ten for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of building a labor temple. This committee will secure data relative to cost, location, &c. There seems to be a general feeling among the members of organized labor that a temple should be constructed to take care of the growing needs of the movement.

METAL WORKERS WIN.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 14.—Amalgamated sheet metal workers of this city recently went on strike for an increase in wages. After being out one day, a compromise agreement was reached whereby the metal workers received a 12½ per cent increase. The victory is a splendid one for the union and all the men have returned to work, and a good feeling exists between the journeymen and the employers.

SIX HUNDRED ON STRIKE.

Superior, Wis., Sept. 14.—The Great Northern docks in Allouez Bay, where the 600 dockmen struck for an advance in wages, leaves business at a complete standstill, and forty ore-train crews are also out of employment.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"

Washington, Sept. 14.—Frequently it occurs that interesting items are lost in the great volume of matter being printed in this age. Recently a writer in the London Daily Chronicle in dealing with the recent strike of the Welsh miners asserted that the reason why the Welsh miners were so persistent in their demand was due "to the divine discontent bred by contact with literature." An excerpt from this article is worthy of reproduction, and is as follow: "In former times the Welshman had nothing in the house but the Bible and 'Jessica's Prayer.' Neither of those instruments of culture taught him, apparently, to be dissatisfied with his lot. But the shilling library has penetrated his country, and now the miner's library is full of the combustibles." Says the writer:

"You will be sure to find there Carlyle's 'Heroes and Hero Worship,' perhaps also has 'Sartor Resartus.' There will be Thoreau's 'Walden,' Ruskin's 'Unto This Last,' and Charles Darwin's 'Origin of Species,' something by Adam Smith and by Karl Marx. The names of Huxley, Spencer, Morris, and even Renan may proclaim themselves from the backs of well-handled volumes. You may even notice the ancient names of Aristotle and Marcus Aurelius, certainly volumes by modern George Borrow and Richard Jeffries. George Eliot will be there, and Charlotte Bronte, Tolstoy, possibly Bernard Shaw, although he is not very human reading to the workingman, and assuredly H. G. Wells. In fine, the coal miner's little library represents the active constructive literature of the past and present, because, living the life he does of incessant struggle with nature, he wants to know—he wants to know!"

PARCELS POST NEWS.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The Post-office Department officials are taking exceptions to statements which have been made to the effect that the new parcels post system which becomes effective the first of next year will increase the general Post-office deficit, and that the burden of taxation now borne by the American people would be increased. It has been stated by these officials that this phase of the question has been thoroughly considered by the department, and that it was found, even by carrying parcels at a rate much lower than the express companies, the system can be made self-supporting. A further statement is made by the officials that receipts from the parcels post will be sufficient to aid in decreasing the annual postal deficit. Arrangements have already been made whereby parcels post packages may now be exchanged without limit of value of the contents of the parcels with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, and Hongkong. Packages from these countries valued at more than $100 must conform to consular certification or bond. Notification to this effect has been sent by Acting Secretary of the Treasury Curtis to all customs officers.

CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS.

Guelph, Canada, Sept. 14.—Representatives of organized labor convened in this city on Sept. 9 as delegates to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to participate in the twenty-eighth annual convention. The attendance was the largest and most widely representative in the history of the organization's meetings. J. Keir Hardie, the well-known British labor man and Member of Parliament, and John T. Smith, of Kansas City, Mo., fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, were present. The eight-hour bill, immigration laws, compensation acts, alien labor acts, and other legislative measures will probably occupy the attention of the convention for six days.

UNION MEN SUCCESSFUL.

Barre, Vt., Sept. 14.—The union men of this State have been active in an effort to secure the nomination and election of union men to the State Legislature. At the recent election two members of labor organizations were elected as members of the State Legislature. Richard Grigg, a granite cutter, residing at Barre City, was elected on the Labor and Democratic ticket. Thomas L. Howley, a member of the Typographical Union, living at Burlington City, was also elected on the Labor and Democratic ticket to represent his district in the State Legislature. The union men of the State feel highly elated over the fact that they have been able to secure two members of the State Legislature.

INJURY CASE SETTLED.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 14.—The Allegany County (Md) commissioners have paid the heirs of Albert James $1,500 from the miners' relief fund. The Consolidation Coal Company refused to sign a statement to the effect that death was due to an injury received in the mine. James was struck by a fall of coal in a mine at Midlothian, but worked for six months afterward, finally being injured again, and died later of paralysis.

GLASS STRIKE STILL ON.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 14.—The strike in the packing department of the Imperial Glass Company is still on, but the men who are out are firm in their determination and are making a gallant struggle. Strike-breakers are being employed, but it is difficult to keep them at work for any considerable period of time, and owing to this fact the company is paying handsomely for their effort to destroy the organization of packers.

BIG LABOR DAY.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 14.—This city witnessed the largest and most enthusiastic Labor Day celebration ever held in the history of this part of the country. The observance of the day was under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and business men and others visited the park, where the celebration was being held. The organized movement in this city is rapidly increasing numerically, and is becoming more effective.

LABOR SUNDAY SERMONS.

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 14.—The recognition of Labor Sunday in this city was general, and was observed to a greater extent than ever before in the history of this city. The Central Labor Council is authority for the statement "that twenty-eight of the churches in the city, comprising all denominations, observed the day, and appropriate labor discourses were delivered."

ORGANIZE TILE LAYERS.

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 14.—William H. Terry, organizer American Federation of Labor, has just instituted a new local of tile layers in this city.

Labor's 1912 Political Programme

The American Federation of Labor, at its convention last November, unanimously adopted the following instructions to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L.:

"The Executive Council is hereby further authorized and directed to take such further action as its judgment may warrant to secure the enactment of such legislation at the forthcoming session of Congress as shall secure the legal status of the organized movement of the wage-workers for freedom from unjust discrimination in the exercise of their natural, normal, and constitutional rights through their voluntary associations.

"And the Executive Council is further authorized and directed that in the event of a failure on the part of Congress to enact the legislation which we herein seek at the hands of Congress and the President to take such action as in its judgment the situation may warrant in the Presidential and Congressional elections of 1912."

The Executive Council of the A. F. of L., having these instructions under consideration, submitted to the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican party planks directly affecting the rights and interests of the working people of America. The propositions submitted to both party conventions were identical. We here republish the declarations of the Democratic, Republican, and the Progressive party (the latter party having been instituted after the close of the two other party conventions), in so far as they directly affect or refer to the rights and interests of the working masses. They are as follows:

REPUBLICAN PARTY'S DECLARATION

"The Republican party is now, as always, a party of advanced and constructive statesmanship. It is prepared to go forward with the solution of those new questions which social, economic, and political development have brought into the forefront of the nation's interest. It will strive, not only in the nation, but in the several States, to enact the necessary legislation to safeguard the public health; to limit effectively the labor of women and children; to protect wage-earners engaged in dangerous occupations; to enact comprehensive and generous workmen's compensation laws in place of the present wasteful and unjust system of employers' liability, and in all possible ways to satisfy the just demand of the people for the study and solution of the complex and constantly changing problems of social welfare.

"In dealing with these questions, it is important that the rights of every individual to the freest possible development of his own powers and resources, and to the control of his own justly acquired property, as far as those are compatible with the rights of others, shall not be interfered with or destroyed. The social and political structure of the United States rests upon the civil liberty of the individual; and for the protection of that liberty the people have wisely, in the National and State constitutions, put definite limitations upon themselves and upon their governmental officers and agencies. To enforce these limitations, to secure the orderly and coherent exercise of governmental powers, and to protect the rights of even the humblest and least favored individual are the function of independent courts of justice.

"The Republican party reaffirms its intention to uphold at all times the authority and integrity of the courts, both State and Federal, and it will ever insist that their powers to enforce their processes and to protect life, liberty, and property shall be preserved inviolate. An orderly method is provided under our system of government by which the people may, when they choose, alter or amend the constitutional provisions which underlie that government. Until these constitutional provisions are so altered or amended, in orderly fashion, it is the duty of the courts to see to it that when challenged they are enforced. * * *

"We favor the amendment of the Federal employers' liability law so as to extend its provisions to all government employes, as well as to provide a more liberal scale of compensation for injury and death. * * *

"We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of appropriate laws to give relief from the constantly growing evil of induced or undesirable immigration, which is inimical to the progress and welfare of the people of the United States.

"We favor the speedy enactment of laws to provide that seamen shall not be compelled to endure involuntary servitude, and that life and property at sea shall be safeguarded by the ample equipment of vessels with life-saving appliances and with full complements of skilled, able-bodied seamen to operate them."

"The approaching completion of the Panama Canal, the establishment of a Bureau of Mines, the institution of postal savings banks, the increased provision made in 1912 for the aged and infirm soldiers and sailors of the republic and for their widows, and the vigorous administration of the laws relating to pure food and drugs, all mark the successful progress of Republican administration and are additional evidence of its effectiveness."

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S DECLARATION

"At this time, when the Republican party after a generation of unlimited power in its control of the Federal government is rent in factions, it is opportune to point to the record of accomplishment of the Democratic House of Representatives in the Sixty-second Congress. We indorse its action and we challenge comparison of its record with that of any Congress which has been controlled by our opponents.

"It has passed a bill to prevent the abuse of the writ of injunction.

"It has passed a law establishing an eight-hour day for workmen on all national public work. * * *

"We repeat our declarations of the platform of 1908, as follows:

"'The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties, and we yield to none in our purpose to maintain their dignity. Our party has given to the bench a long line of distinguished justices, who have added to the respect and confidence in which this department must be jealously maintained. We resent the attempt of the Republican party to raise a false issue respecting the judiciary. It is an unjust reflection upon a great body of our citizens to assume that they lack respect for the courts.

"'It is the function of the courts to interpret the laws which the people enact, and if the laws appear to work economic, social, or political injustice, it is our duty to change them. The only basis upon which the integrity of our courts can stand is that of unswerving justice and protection of life, personal liberty, and property. As judicial processes may be abused, we should guard them against abuse.

"'Experience has proved the necessity of a modification of the law relating to injunction, and we reiterate the pledges of our platforms of 1896 and 1904 in favor of a measure which passed the United States Senate in 1896, relating to contempt in Federal courts, and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

"'Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We believe that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality, and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which an injunction would not issue if no industrial disputes were involved.

"'The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgment of the right of the wage-earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions, to the end that such labor organizations, and their members, should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

"'We pledge the Democratic party to the enactment of a law creating a department of labor, represented separately in the President's cabinet, in which department shall be included the subject of mines and mining.'

"We pledge the Democratic party, so far as the Federal jurisdiction extends, to an employes' compensation law providing adequate indemnity for injury to body or loss of life. * * *

"We rejoice in the inheritance of mineral resources unequaled in extent, variety, or value, and in the development of a mining industry unequaled in its magnitude and importance. We honor the men who, in their hazardous toil underground, daily risk their lives in extracting and preparing for our use the products of the mine, so essential to the industries, the commerce, and the comfort of the people of this country. And we pledge ourselves to the extension of the work of the Bureau of Mines in every way appropriate for national legislation with a view of safeguarding the lives of miners, lessening the waste of essential resources, and promoting the economic development of mining, which, along with agriculture, must in the future, even more than in the past, serve as the very foundation of our national prosperity and welfare, and our international commerce. * * *

"We urge upon Congress the speedy enactment of laws for the greater security of life and property at sea; and we favor the repeal of all laws, and the abrogation of so much of our treaties with other nations as provide for the arrest and imprisonment of seamen charged with desertion and violation of their contract of service. Such laws and treaties are un-American, and violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the Constitution of the United States. * * *

The law pertaining to the civil service should be honestly and rigidly enforced, to the end that merit and ability shall be the standard of appointment and promotion, rather than service rendered to a political party; and we favor a reorganization of the civil service, with adequate compensation commensurate with the class of work performed, for all officers and employes; we also recommend the extension to all classes of civil service employes of the benefits of the provisions of the employers' liability law; we also recognize the right of direct petition to Congress by employes for the redress of grievances."

PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S DECLARATION

The Progressive party demands such restriction of the power of the courts as shall leave to the people the ultimate authority to determine fundamental questions of social welfare and public policy. To secure this end its pledges itself to provide:

First. That when an act, passed under the police power of the State, is held unconstitutional under the State constitution by the courts, the people, after an ample interval for deliberaion, shall have an opportunity to vote on the question whether they desire the act to become law notwithstanding such decision.

Second. That every decision of the highest Appellate Court of a State declaring an act of the Legislature unconstitutional on the ground of its violation of the Federal Constitution shall be subject to the same review by the Supreme Court of the United States as is now accorded to decisions sustaining such legislation.

The Progressive party, in order to secure to the people a better administration of justice, and by that means bring about a more general respect for the law and the courts, pledges itself to work unceasingly for the reform of legal procedure and judicial methods.

We believe that the issuance of injunction in cases arising out of labor disputes should be prohibited when such injunctions would not apply when no labor disputes existed.

We also believe that a person cited for contempt in labor disputes, except when such contempt was committed in the actual presence of the court, or so near thereto as to interfere with the proper administration of justice, should have a right to trial by jury.

"The supreme duty of the nation is the conservation of human resources through an enlarged measure of social and industrial justice. We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly in State and nation for: Effective legislation, looking to the prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases, overwork, involuntary unemployment, and other injurious effects, incident to modern industry.

"The fixing of minimum safety and health standards for the various occupations, and the exercise of the public authority of State and nation, including the Federal control over interstate commerce, and the taxing power, to maintain such standards.

"The prohibition of child labor.

"Minimum wage standards for working women, to provide a 'living wage' in all industrial occupations.

"The general prohibition of night work for women, and the establishment of an eight-hour day for women and young persons.

"One day's rest in seven for all wage-workers.

"The eight-hour day in continuous twenty-four-hour industries.

"The abolition of the convict contract labor system.

"Substituting a system of prison production for governmental consumption only.

"And the application of prisoners' earnings to the support of their dependent families.

"Publicity as to wages, hours, and conditions of labor.

"Full reports upon industrial accidents and diseases, and the opening to public inspection of all tallies, weights, measures, and check systems on labor products.

Standards of compensation for death by industrial accident and injury and trade disease which will transfer the burden of lost earnings from the families of working people to the industry and thus to the community.

The protection of home life against the hazards of sickness, irregular employment and old age through the adoption of a system of social insurance adapted to American use.

The development of the creative labor power of America by lifting the last load of illiteracy from American youth and establishing continuation schools for industrial education under public control and encouraging agricultural education and demonstration in rural schools.

The establishment of industrial research laboratories to put the methods and discoveries of science at the service of American producers.

We favor the organization of the workers, men and women, as a means of protecting their interests and of promoting their progress.

"We pledge our party to establish a Department of Labor, with a seat in the Cabinet and with wide jurisdiction over matters affecting the conditions of labor and living. * * *

"The Progressive party, believing that no people can justly claim to be a true democracy which denies political rights on account of sex, pledges itself to the task of securing equal suffrage to men and women alike."

From a careful perusal of these declarations it will be observed that the National Convention of the Republican party totally ignored the questions affecting labor's demands for the principles of justice and human liberty. The declarations of the Democratic party upon these questions is a reaffirmation of its favorable platform planks of 1908, while that of the Progressive party is equally outspoken and favorable. The addresses of the Presidential nominees of these parties in connection with their candidacy and the activities of each in the past, as well as their respective parties, must also be borne in mind. The candidate of the Republican party, Mr. Taft, has accentuated his antagonism to the correction of the evil and abuse of the injunctive power and trial by jury in charges of indirect contempt. The candidates of the Democratic and of the Progressive party, Gov. Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt, have been outspoken in favor of these reforms.

Candidates and parties are to be judged by their actions in preference to their declarations. Of the Republican party, as a party, so long as it has had entire control of the legislation and the administration, it was impossible to get from it any consideration, much less action, on any fundamental question affecting the rights, interests of and the justice due to the toilers of our country, as evidenced by the deaf ear turned toward the toilers by Congress when the bill of grievances and protest were presented to the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, and the President pro tem. of the Senate, Mr. Frye, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Cannon.

The failure to secure relief or consideration at the hands of the Republican party was the cause and the justification for the A. F. of L. campaigns of 1908 and 1910; and though our efforts were not crowned with success in 1908, yet, because it was the paramount issue in the campaign of that year, the principles involved were thoroughly discussed, and 6,393,182 citizens of the United States cast their votes in support of them.

Six Congressmen, trade unionists, with paid-up union cards, were elected.

In 1910 the political complexion of the House of Representatives was changed, and fifteen trade unionists were elected to Congress. But in addition to the election of fifteen trade union Congressmen, a large number of antagonistic Congressmen were defeated by the work of organized labor's campaign when they sought re-election, and men pledged to labor's demands elected in their stead.

Due to the presentation of the bill of grievances, the campaigns of 1908 and 1910, the political, legislative, and administrative atmosphere was greatly clarified, and the demands of labor found expression in laws enacted and progress in legislation made.

American Federation of Labor's Success in Securing and Advancing Remedial Legislation

We present here a report of the A. F. of L. Legislative Committee, giving in detail and in summary the laws passed and the advancement of bills in Congress:

Washington, D. C., Aug. 26, 1912.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor.

Dear Sir and Brother: We, the undersigned Legislative Committee, submit to you herewith our final report on the status of legislation before the second session of the Sixty-second Congress.

Anti-trust and Injunction Limitation.

The Bartlett bill, H. R. 23189, which was favorably reported out of the House Committee on Labor on April 22, is on the calendar of the House. We are informed by authoritative sources that it will be one of the first measures taken up for consideration at the next session.

Compensation.

The compensation bill, applicable to employes of common carriers by railroads engaged in interstate commerce, which passed the Senate on May 6, 1912, by a vote of 64 to 15, is still in the House Judiciary Committee.

Convict Labor Bill.

H. R. 5601, which has for its purpose the protecting of fair manufacturers and free labor from convict-made goods and requiring the sale of convict-made goods to conform to the laws relative to convict-made goods in the States in which they are sold, passed the House on March 4, 1912, and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and in turn referred to a subcommittee, of which Senator Brown of Nebraska is chairman. Many efforts have been made by your legislative committee to have the subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee report this bill to the Senate, but no action has been taken.

Contempt Bill.

The Clayton bill, H. R. 22591, passed the House on July 11, a roll-call vote showing the following results: In favor, 233; against, 18. This bill is in the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. This bill provides for a trial by jury for all contempts alleged to have occurred outside of the court and so far removed from it as not to interfere with the administration of justice. The bill will be one of the first to receive the consideration of the Senate at the session beginning in December.

Department of Labor.

Mr. Sulzer's bill, H. R. 22913, creating a Department of Labor, with a Secretary, who shall be a member of the President's Cabinet and who shall have the power of mediation in trade disputes and the right to appoint conciliators in such cases when, in his judgment, it is wise to do so, but shall have no power to enforce his views upon the contending parties. This bill passed the House by unanimous vote on July 17, 1912, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. Senator Borah of Idaho (chairman) called a meeting of this committee for the consideration of this bill two days after the reference was made to his committee. President Gompers made a very able and lengthy argument before the committee in advocacy of the bill, whereupon the chairman was authorized to report the bill favorably to the Senate, which was done. Senator Borah called up the bill in the Senate on August 6 and asked unanimous consent for its consideration. Senator Sutherland of Utah objected to its consideration. Senator Borah called the bill up on several other occasions, but was unable to get the Senate to consider it.

Eight Hours for Dredgemen.

H. R. 18787. This bill is to correct a decision by the Supreme Court, which held that dredgemen were not laborers or mechanics, but seamen, and therefore did not come under the operation of the general eight-hour law. It passed the House on July 17, with no votes against it, and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate by the chairman pro tem. Your Legislative Committee, learning of its reference, immediately notified Senator Borah, chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor of the Senate, where, in our opinion, the bill properly belonged, and he at once asked for a change of reference to his committee, which was agreed to. The bill was favorably reported by the committee to the Senate on August 20, and several efforts made by Chairman Borah to obtain consideration by the Senate, without avail.

The General Eight-hour Bill.

Limiting the hours of daily service of laborers and mechanics employed upon work done for the United States, or for any Territory, or for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes. This bill, H. R. 9061, was introduced in the House on May 8, 1911, and referred to the Committee on Labor. It was reported favorably by said committee on August 21, 1911, passed the House December 14, 1911, reported to the Senate April 11, 1912, and passed the Senate May 31, 1912, with one or two slight amendments; those were made in order to strengthen the constitutionality of the bill. Final passage by the House out of conference June 8, 1912. Signed by the President June 19, 1912. The pen used by the President of the United States in affixing his signature to this bill in order to make it a law was presented to President Gompers immediately after it was signed.

Injunction Limitation Bill.

The Clayton bill, H. R. 23635, was taken up for consideration and passed by the House May 14, 243 members voting in favor of its passage, 31 members voting against it. This bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, and, in turn, referred to a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee. The subcommittee is composed of five Senators, as follows: Root of New York, chairman; Sutherland of Utah, Nelson of Minnesota, Republicans, and Chilton of West Virginia, O'Gorman of New York, Democrats. A number of hearings have been had by this committee, almost the entire time of the hearings being taken up by the lawyers representing the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Founders' Association, the National Erectors' Association, the Anti-Boycott Association, and a number of the large railroad corporations.

Your Legislative Committee requested Chairman Root to set an hour on July 23, when the proponents of this bill might be heard. Senator Root agreed to this, but we were subsequently notified that there were some of the members of the subcommittee out of the city, and the hearings would go over until Thursday, July 25, at 10:30 a. m. Upon the arrival of President Gompers, Congressman William B. Wilson, and other advocates of the measure, we were informed that as the Senate would go into session at 11 o'clock it would be impossible to give much time to the hearings. Numerous requests were made upon Senator Root to call his committee together, but without success, and as a consequence the following letter was sent by President Gompers to Chairman Root, which is self-explanatory:

Washington, D. C., Aug. 6, 1912.

Hon. Elihu Root, Chairman Judiciary Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: To my utter astonishment, Mr. John Moffitt, of the American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee, just informed me that your secretary, on your authority, informed him that the subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee will not hold any further hearings at this session of Congress on the Clayton bill to regulate the issuance of injunctions, the bill which passed the House of Representatives.

If the committee is to have no further hearings upon this bill before the adjournment of Congress, two grave wrongs will be committed—one, that the Senate will not have the opportunity of considering and passing this remedial piece of legislation, rectifying the existence of grave wrongs; the other, that for months there will appear upon the record of the hearings before your committee grave charges of criminality against innocent men, men whose honor and character are above reproach. Already part of these hearings, reflecting upon honored citizens, have been circulated throughout the country. As I have already said, not only will the Senate be denied the opportunity of considering and passing the bill itself, but the charges and insinuations which the committee unfairly and unjustly permitted to be made remain unchallenged and unanswered. I should be pleased to have some definite statement from you direct in regard to this subject matter. Very respectfully yours,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President American Federation of Labor.

On August 9 Senator Root sent the following reply:

United States Senate,
Washington, D. C., Aug. 9, 1912.

Dear Sir: Your letter of August 6 was the first intimation which I have had that you considered time of importance in presenting an answer to the statements which have been made before the committee upon the so-called anti-injunction bill. I have, in order to give you an opportunity for such reply as you wish to make, called a meeting of the subcommittee for Tuesday, the 13th, at 12 o'clock noon, and I have directed the clerk to send you a notice, which I presume he has done.

The session of Congress has reached a point where there is no possibility whatever of securing consideration of this bill before adjournment. The Senate has been sitting of late from 10 in the morning until 11 or 12 at night for the purpose of expediting the measures which it is absolutely necessary for us to pass before adjournment, and it is quite certain that no new matters will be taken up. Very truly yours,

ELIHU ROOT.

Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

On the date set President Gompers, with Joseph Valentine, president, and John P. Frey, editor, of the International Molders' Union, with your committee and others, appeared and made arguments in behalf of the bill.

The wholesale charges and insinuations made by attorneys for the Erectors' Association and the National Founders' Association against the men of labor were ably and vigorously refuted by Messrs. Gompers, Valentine, and Frey.

Senator Root, chairman of the committee, thereupon notified President Gompers that his committee had decided to have no further hearings on the bill at this session of Congress, as time would not permit their giving due consideration to the measure, much less the time required by the full Judiciary Committee to pass upon the merits and demerits of the bill. Therefore further hearings were postponed until December.

Immigration.

On April 19, 1912, the Senate passed the immigration bill, S. 3175, in which it incorporated the illiteracy test, by a vote of 56 in favor to 9 against it, 30 not voting, and increased the head tax from $4 to $5. This bill was then referred to the House Committee on Immigration, which committee, after prolongel consideration, decided on June 6 to strike out all after the enacting clause and add only the illiteracy test part of the bill. Many conflicting opinions have developed in the House on this bill. A petition was circulated by Representative Dies of Texas in the House of Representatives, which received the number of names required by the rules of the Democratic party, for a party caucus for the consideration of this bill. No action was taken in caucus on account of no quorum. Many efforts have been made by your Legislative Committee to have this bill called up in the House, and in every instance we were told that other committees held the calendar, and it was impossible for the Committee on Immigration to get the call at this session of Congress. Accompanying letters on this subject are self-explanatory:

House of Representatives,
Committee on Immigration and Naturalization,
Washington, D. C., July 31, 1912.

Hon. D. E. Finley, House of Representatives.

My Dear Mr. Finley: Your esteemed favor of the 30th instant has been received. Both the Burnett bill and the Dillingham bill, as substituted by the Burnett bill, were reported to the House some time ago, and I at once introduced a resolution asking for a rule to make each of these bills in order. The Rules Committee has not granted the rule, but I have a letter from the chairman, a copy of which I herewith inclose, assuring me that the rule will be reported in the early part of next December. You will understand the fact that without unanimous consent, or a rule, the bill cannot be called up until my Committee on Immigration is reached on some calendar Wednesday. As there are a number of committees ahead of mine, I cannot say whether it will be reached at this session or not. If it is, I will be sure to call the Dillingham bill up and put on its passage. I realize how earnestly you have worked with me to try to secure the passage of the restrictive measures. You were one of the few who attended the recent caucus, in which we tried to get action binding the Democratic party to these measures. You will remember also that the enemies of the measure prevented a quorum from attending the caucus. The assurance of the Rules Committee makes it certain that we will get the bill up next December, and when we do I have no uneasiness about its passage. With best wishes, I am, your friend, truly,

(Signed.) JOHN L. BURNETT,
Chairman.

House of Representatives,
Committee on Rules,
Washington, D. C., July 25, 1912.

Hon. John L. Burnett, Chairman Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. Burnett: Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 18, and to say that the same has had most careful consideration. Your request that the Committee on Rules take favorable action, so as to bring before the House the Dillingham bill, has been thoroughly considered.

On behalf of the Committee on Rules, I will say, as chairman, that early in December of the next session of this Congress, the bill will be brought by rule before the House of Representatives in order that it may be duly considered. Just at this time the condition of business before the Committee on Rules and in the House of Representatives is such as to render it impracticable to report a rule and give the bill consideration during the present session.

Thanking you for your letter, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed.) R. L. HENRY,

Chairman Committee on Rules.

Industrial Commission.

Known as the Hughes-Borah bill, H. R. 21094 and S. 5546. This bill is to create a commission to investigate the entire subject about employers and employes, with a view to ascertain the best methods of dealing with the problem, so as to protect the rights of all persons directly or indirectly interested. This bill passed the House by unanimous vote on July 17, and was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor of the Senate, and, in turn, reported favorably by that committee to the Senate, which passed the bill, with some amendments, on August 15. This sent the bill to conference, from which an agreement was reported August 21, and the bill therefore became law.

Post-office Appropriation Bill.

Which passed the House and carried with it an amendment providing for the elimination of the "gag" rule, for many weeks was under consideration by the Senate Committee on Post-office and Post Roads, of which Senator Bourne is chairman. There were great efforts made by government officials and others to have the amendment providing for the elimination of the "gag" rule stricken from the bill. President Gompers appeared before the committee and made a very lengthy and exhaustive argument in favor of the retention in the bill of this amendment, and we regret to say that when the post-office appropriation bill was reported out of the Senate committee we found that the "anti-gag" rule amendment was stricken from it. We urged the members of the Senate to restore the rights of petition and the rights of organization to the employes of the post-office, and are pleased to report that this was accomplished after a lengthy and stormy debate in the Senate. The relief sought has been secured.

Seamen's Bill.

H. R. 23673, passed the House with no opposing votes on its final passage on Saturday, August 3, 1912, and is now in the Senate Committee on Commerce, of which Senator Nelson of Minnesota is chairman. It was referred to a subcommittee, of which Senator Burton is chairman, and from whom no report was made. This bill is to give freedom to the seamen, to provide a standard of skill for seamanship, to equalize the operating expenses of foreign vessels with American vessels, so as to build up the American merchant marine without resorting to subsidies. It abolishes the last provisions in the law for compulsory labor within the jurisdiction of the United States, and, therefore, ceases to stand as a precedent for its extension.

For the past eighteen years strenuous efforts have been made by the American Federation of Labor and Mr. Andrew Furuseth, representing the Seamen's Union, to have this bill enacted into law, but without success. Much credit is due for its passage through the House to the Hon. William B. Wilson, because of his persistent labor with members in order to make the bill understood and the argument properly presented to the House.

Senators—Popular Election Of.

This measure, which labor has urged for many years, has passed Congress, and is now before the States for ratification as an amendment to the Constitution.

THE SUMMARY

In addition to the foregoing bills, there have been less important bills and items in appropriation bills in which labor was deeply interested passed by the House, and your Legislative Committee believes it proper at this time to give a summary of the bills and items in which labor was interested, and which passed the House at this session, as follows:

1. An effective Injunction Limitation bill.
2. The Contempt bill.
3. Convict Labor bill.
4. Department of Labor bill.
5. The amendment to the Post Office Appropriation bill, providing for the elimination of the "gag" order.
6. The Eight-hour bill.
7. An eight-hour provision is included in the Fortification bill.
8. An eight-hour provision for Post Office clerks and letter carriers included in the Post Office bill.
9. An eight-hour provision on all contracts in the Naval Appropriation bill.
10. An eight-hour bill for dredgemen.
11. An amendment to the Constitution providing for the popular election of United States Senators.
12. The Children's Bureau bill.
13. The Match bill, prohibiting the manufacture of white phosphorus matches, thus protecting the health of the workers.
14. The Seamen's bill.
15. The Bureau of Mines Act amended and strengthened.
16. The Federal Compensation for Injuries Act, amended.
17. The Industrial Commission bill.
18. The inhuman stop watch, high-speed schemes of employers to drive workmen, have been investigated and rejected by a competent committee of the House.
19. Publications by the trade unions and fraternities have been fostered by the passage through the House of the "Dodds bill."
20. By the enacting of the plate printers' bill, the people's money will be protected from the sharp practice of counterfeiters.
21. The securing of an appropriation of $20,000 from the House Appropriation Committee for a continuance of the investigation of the working conditions in the iron and steel industries by the Department of Commerce and Labor.
22. Securing an increase in salaries for employes of the Bureau of Labor.
23. Retention in the Bureau of Labor of the normal duties of the bureau.
24. Eight hours for railroad telegraphers, H. R. 25040, was reported out of the Committee of the House on Interstate Commerce on August 6, 1912, and is on the calendar of the House for early consideration at the next session of Congress; also an amendment to the Erdman act, which is in the same position.
25. Musicians' bill—House joint resolution No. 202, known as the Musicians' bill, which provides that enlisted musicians shall not come in competition with civilian musicians, has been favorably reported by the House Committee on Labor, and is now on the calendar. This will probably pass at the next session of Congress.
26. An increase of five cents per hour was obtained for the printing pressmen in the Government Printing Office at Washington, D. C. While the representatives of the printing pressmen were endeavoring to obtain an increase of ten cents per hour, your Legislative Committee assisted materially in obtaining an increase of five cents per hour. Until your Legislative Committee became interested in this item there was little or no disposition shown on the part of the members of the House or Senate to grant any increase.
27. Free smoker bill, H. R. 24741, by Mr. Peters, passed the House by unanimous vote on Tuesday, July 16, 1912.
28. Porto Rico—The Citizenship bill for Porto Rico has passed the House and is now in the Senate committee.

The bills that passed the Senate and are pending in the House are the—

1. Workmen's compensation bill.
2. Immigration bill.

The bills that passed both Houses of Congress and became law are—

1. Rights of hearing, petition, and association restored to post-office employes.
2. Popular election of Senators.
3. General eight-hour bill.
4. Eight hours in the fortification bill.
5. Eight hours in the naval bill.
6. Eight hours for letter carriers and clerks in post-offices.
7. Phosphorus match bill.
8. Children's bureau bill.
9. Extension of Federal compensation for injuries act.
10. Industrial Relations Commission.
11. Free circulation of trade union and fraternal publications (Dodds amendment).

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR E. HOLDER,
JOHN A. MOFFITT,
GRANT HAMILTON,
Legislative Committee,
A. F. of L.

A RESUMÈ

The following article, relative to the political programme inaugurated and carried on by the American Federation of Labor, is made up of copious extracts taken from the editorials and speeches of President Gompers, as well as from official documents issued by the American Federation of Labor. It records in chronological order the events political as they relate to the activities of the American Federation of Labor.

The position of organized labor upon the question of political action was clearly set forth in the following declaration, unanimously adopted by the Nashville convention of the American Federation of Labor in 1897, and reaffirmed at various times since:

"Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor most firmly and unequivocally favors the independent use of the ballot by the trade unionists and workmen, united regardless of party, that we may elect men from our own ranks to make new laws and administer them along the lines laid down in the legislative demands of the American Federation of Labor, and at the same time secure an impartial judiciary that will not govern us by arbitrary injunctions of the courts, nor act as the pliant tools of corporate wealth.

"Resolved. That as our efforts are centered against all forms of industrial slavery and economic wrong, we must also direct our utmost energies to remove all forms of political servitude and party slavery, to the end that the working people may act as a unit at the polls at every election."

Owing to the inactivity of Congress relative to remedial labor legislation, there came an insistent demand from the organized workmen, as well as the unorganized, that measures be adopted to bring forcibly to the attention of the law making branch of the government the fact that labor was unjustly suffering from discrimination in the execution of law, and further that the courts were usurping their functions by the indiscriminate issuance of injunctions in labor disputes. In 1906 the hostility of Congress and the courts reached high tide, and the presidents of all affiliated international unions were invited to meet the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at headquarters on March 21, 1906, and participate in a conference concerning matters affecting labor's interests Congressionally and administratively. The presidents or their duly credentialed representatives participated, and unanimously and enthusiastically indorsed what is now historically known as "Labor's Bill of Grievances." This document called specific attention to the nonenforcement of laws enacted in the interest of labor, the abuse by the courts of the injunctive writ, the application of the anti-trust law to labor unions, the denial of the right of petition by government employes by Executive order, the rights of seamen, and other matters of vital interest to the workmen of our country.

This bill of grievances was presented to Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States; William P. Frye, then President pro tempore of the United States Senate, and to Joseph G. Cannon, then Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The presentation of this document was the opening declaration that the organized labor movement proposed to hold to account those responsible for legislation or for the failure of legislation, as well as those who had been commissioned to execute the law.

In the following June, 1906, it was determined to enter the Second Congressional District of Maine for the purpose of opposing the re-election of Charles E. Littlefield, who had been conspicuous in his hostility in Congress against every measure which sought to give labor a square deal. This campaign was the first active and formal entrance on the political field of organized labor in an effort to awaken not only the trade unionists, but the public as well, to the indifference and hostility of many of the members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives against the just demands being insistently made for remedial legislation. The prosecution of this campaign electrified the trade unionists, and served to arouse much interest among the people at large. Congressman Littlefield was not defeated, but his usual majority of 5,000 was reduced to approximately 1,000. The fight which labor made against the Maine Congressman aroused other opposition to him, with the result that he eventually resigned his seat in Congress. Thus one of labor's most bitter antagonists was eliminated from the lawmaking branch of the government.

The Maine election occurred in September, and following the Littlefield campaign a vigorous canvass was conducted by the men of labor in other Congressional districts throughout the country in an effort to "leave at home" hostile Congressmen. Where trade unionists had secured nominations for Congress the American Federation of Labor actively assisted in the campaign for their election.

In the June, 1912, American Federationist, there appeared an editorial written by Samuel Gompers, entitled, "Elect Trade Union Congressmen," and contains an epitome of labor's struggle on the political field. Extracts therefrom are here produced:

"Fifteen members of the United States House of Representatives are trade unionists in good standing in their respective unions. The achievement of this remarkable result of three Congressional campaigns typifies the aggressiveness of the trade unionists in the Congressional districts from which these members were elected, and emphasizes the potency of well directed trade union effort.

"The year 1906 marked a concerted movement of organized labor into the field of national politics—not for the purpose of promoting the interests of any political party—but to secure representation in the popular branch of Congress by the election of trade unionists without regard to the political party with which they affiliated.

"The controlling motive which crystallized into action the political activity of organized labor was the fact that the courts persistently increased their jurisdiction and usurpation, and continued issuing their injunctions in greatly aggravated form, invading the rights and liberty of the workers, and denying the equality before the law guaranteed by the Constitution. Congress had not only been apathetic toward proposed remedial legislation affecting the interest of labor, but, among the controlling characters in the dominant party, open hostility was apparent. Members of Congress known to be hostile to the trade unions, and elected from districts where the organizations of labor were numerically small, were assigned to committeeships with the sole purpose of smothering intended legislation designed to secure relief from injustice and wrongfully administered laws. This hostility became so marked that it was decided to register a vigorous protest against the machinations of these political misrepresentatives. This slogan was adopted as Labor's Watchword.

"We will stand by our friends and administer a stinging rebuke to men or parties who are either indifferent, negligent, or hostile, and wherever opportunity affords, secure the election of intelligent, honest, earnest trade unionists, with clear, unblemished, paid-up union cards in their possession."

"This watchword of labor met with a hearty response. The records of Congressmen were scrutinized and furnished to those requesting such information, and where these records showed hostility to labor's interests, trade unionists used their influence to the end that labor's enemies might be defeated. The first contest revealed the efficacy of the effort. Six trade unionists, in full standing with their respective organizations, were elected to membership in the National House of Representatives.

"This small group signalized the direct entrance of organized labor as a factor in the lawmaking branch of the Federal government. Political faddists and theorists, of course, ridiculed the policy of trade unionists in coining their balance of power into definite results. Illusory programmes were pushed to the fore and profuse predictions were made that labor's efforts would prove abortive, but the election of six trade union Congressmen in the first contest constituted indisputable evidence that material results had been achieved.

"While the then dominant party refused to change its policy in any material way, yet the labor group made an effective impression. Organized labor was aroused to the possibilities of adding to the initial labor group, and in the elections of 1908 four additional trade unionists were successful in securing election to the House. With a group of ten trade union Congressmen, the plan of following the lines of least resistance showed results that could not go unrecognized. Congress and the public generally became convinced that Labor proposed to exercise its political rights, to the end that Congressional relief should be secured.

"The Sixty-first Congress showed a marked reduction of the dominant party's strength, and a corresponding added influence of the labor group. Hostility became tempered with some reason, a dawning realization of the power of Labor became apparent to political prophets, and a change in attitude toward Labor's demands was noticeable. While it could not be expected that the full fruition of trade union hopes could be realized with this small labor group, yet with the softening attitude of the hostile forces, brought about solely by persistent trade union vigor, with constantly increasing activity in every part of the country to the end that the labor group should be augmented, Labor's prospects were materially brightened.

"With hope and determination the trade Unionists entered the congressional campaign of 1910, and conducted a contest that is memorable in the history of our country. The result of Labor's third campaign was the still further addition of five more members, augmenting the labor group to a total of fifteen. In the present Congress, the Sixty-second, these fifteen trade union Congressmen have performed conspicuous service. The labor group has continually grown, the initial effort electing six trade unionists to Congress; the second effort, reelecting the first six and adding four more, while the third effort totaled fifteen. This gratifying result could not have been accomplished in any other way than that adopted.

"The election of the present Congress witnessed the overthrow of the dominant party in the House and a material reduction of its numerical strength in the Senate.

"The labor group has been fittingly recognized in important committee appointments. The chairman of the House Committee on Labor is a staunch and tried trades unionist, and that committee, instead of being the charnel house of labor's measures as formerly, now responds to the justice of labor's needs. Important legislation in the interest of labor has been reported out and passed, while other measures are pending.

"The House Labor Committee has done splendid work during the present session of Congress. As is well known, the chairman of that committee is W. B. Wilson, formerly secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, who is not only a man of marked ability, but staunch and true to labor and all the people. Associated with him upon this committee are James P. Maher, former treasurer of the United Hatters of North America; Frank Buchanan, former president of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, and David J. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers. The highest commendation is deserved and accorded to them. It must be noted, in addition to these union men upon the Labor Committee, that the other members of the Labor Committee are friendly and sympathetic toward labor's bills."

In the July, 1912, American Federationist President Gompers published an editorial entitled "Labor on Guard and Insistent." It follows:

"The price of liberty is intelligent knowledge and eternal vigilance. The people, and particularly the workers, cannot always trust to political mechanism or past achievements. The struggle for justice is no place for weaklings. The passive bystander may share the benefits, but he bears no burdens of the battle to secure them. If labor wants industrial and political justice and liberty, legislation and administration in the interests of the people, it must pay the price, the price of hard, constant, and persistent effort. A fair control over the preliminary movements gives strategic power in the fight. Now is the time to seize that power. Now is the time to be up and doing.

"With concentration and integration of the industrial organization government has extended the scope of its functions to control and regulate conditions of production. The degree and kind of control must be determined by the legislative body; not nullification, but application and enforcement are the domain of the executive and judicial departments. For years big business has controlled all three divisions of the State. In a democracy, such as exists, at least in theory, in the United States, the final arbiter of industrial and political relations must be the people.

"Six years ago organized labor, aroused by imminent peril to its economic freedom, made certain demands of the political parties. Unheeded, it carried the case directly to the people. Rousing and molding public opinion to an intelligent knowledge of conditions made advantageous changes in the election returns, resulting in the election of fifteen members of Congress who hold trade union membership. They are as follows:

W. B. Wilson, coal miner, Blossburg, Pa., Democrat.

Robert E. Lee, blacksmith, Pottsville, Pa., Democrat.

John A. Martin, locomotive fireman, Pueblo, Col., Democrat.

William J. Cary, commercial telegrapher, Milwaukee, Republican.

Victor L. Berger, typographical union, Milwaukee, Socialist.

William Hughes, textile workers, Paterson, N. J., Democrat.

Frank Buchanan, structural iron worker, Chicago, Democrat.

James T. McDermott, commercial telegrapher, Chicago, Democrat.

David J. Lewis, coal miner, Cumberland, Md., Democrat.

Charles B. Smith, commercial telegrapher, Buffalo, N. Y., Democrat.

Carl C. Anderson, musician, Fostoria, Ohio, Democrat.

Isaac R. Sherwood, typographical union, Toledo, Ohio, Democrat.

E. E. Roberts, metal miner, Carson City, Nev., Republican.

John R. Farr, typographical union, Scranton, Pa., Republican.

James P. Maher, hatter, Brooklyn, N. Y., Democrat.

"As a result of this achievement of organized labor politicians gave some heed to registered public opinion, but the workers, the people themselves, must be progressive. One victory must be followed by another, and then more and more, for many grave wrongs remain unrighted—many rights yet to be attained. With this purpose in view, the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor passed by unanimous vote the following instructions to the executive council:

"The Executive Council is hereby further authorized and directed to take such further action as its judgment may warrant to secure the enactment of such legislation at the forthcoming session of Congress as shall secure the legal status of the organized movement of the wage-workers for freedom from unjust discrimination in the exercise of their natural, normal, and constitutional rights through their voluntary associations.

"And the Executive Council is further authorized and directed that in the event of a failure on the part of Congress to enact the legislation which we herein seek at the hands of the Congress and the President, to take such action as in its judgment the situation may warrant in the Presidential and Congressional election of 1912."

In compliance with the imperative direction of the Atlanta Convention, a committee of the Executive Council was appointed and waited upon the political parties and presented labor's demands to the platform committees. The platform declarations in reference to labor by the parties referred to are printed in this issue, and are presented for a full consideration by our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens.

Each central body, as well as each member of organized labor, has a duty to perform, and that duty is to see to it that wherever possible trade unionists should be nominated and elected to public office, and political movements should be closely watched. Political control is the result of a great system, built up of various spheres of influence. Party domination begins with a ward boss, extend to municipal, county, State, and then Federal agents. To secure agents responsive to the common welfare, organized labor must attack those agents of the interests wherever they may be intrenched. Trade unionists must determine for themselves what action they will take at the polls in the coming November. The record of political events and the utterances and actions of the candidates as affects labor are herein recorded, and the sovereignty of the voters is supreme in determining their action on these political questions in the coming Presidential and Congressional elections.

Men of Labor, stand true. Get busy.

Organized labor must see to it that trade union men are nominated and elected to municipal, county, and State offices; that trade union men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

Stand faithfully by our friends.

Oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be

Candidates for President,

For Congress, or other offices, whether Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.

Get Busy! Stand True!

After the national conventions of the political parties had presented their platforms and candidates to the people, the American Federationist, in the closing sentences of an editorial devoted to a discussion of the platform pronouncements, had this to say:

"The workers and thinking men of our country will closely scan and compare and study carefully the respective declarations of the political parties. They will keep in mind the failure of the one and the response and good faith of the others, and at the right time, in a most effective manner, manifest their own interest by the exercise of their great privilege, the franchise.

"Of this one thing all may be sure, the men of labor have but one purpose to serve—the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of the toiling masses of our country to make for their common welfare and for the entire uplift of all our people."

Labor asks no special privilege, asks nothing but what is its just dues, industrially, politically, socially, and morally. It undertakes to achieve, and will achieve, equality before the law for all our people—to make life better worth living, to organize the yet unorganized—to organize, unite, and federate, and to see that the toiling masses of our country are more fully represented in the legislative and administrative affairs of our country, of our States and municipalities.

Organized labor must see to it that trade union men are nominated and elected to municipal, county, and State offices; that trade union men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

Stand faithfully by our friends.

Oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be

Candidates for President,

For Congress, or other offices, whether Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.

Get Busy! Stand True!

Trade Unionists, It's Up to You.

The Presidential and Congressional elections are approaching. Labor's efforts have been rewarded by effective and tangible results. The future looks bright for additional numbers to the labor group in the next Congress. With continued fidelity to the cause of labor, future legislation of the Congress of the United States will bear the humanitarian impress of labor's high ideals. The history of the trade unions is a continuous narrative of loyalty and devotion to principle. A trade unionist in Congress, regardless of party affiliations, is a sentinel who will stand for right and justice, for all humanity.

Every State federation, city central body, and trade unionist should embrace the present opportunity to secure the election of trade unionists to Congress.

Candidates for Congress, other than trade unionists, who have, by their record either in or out of Congress, shown fidelity to the cause for which labor is contending, should receive the hearty support of all trade unionists. Let it not be said that trade unionists are ungrateful for the consistent and continuous service performed in the interest of labor by any public official when seeking re-election. Ingratitude for those who have proven true is a conspicuous characteristic of the ignoble. The trade unionist is true and will reward faithful service by his support.

Labor is not partisan to any political party, but is intensely partisan to a principle.

Don't be deluded by fanciful political programmes that assume to transport the labor movement to some Utopian land of promise. Strive for the better day to-day.

Material and actual results constitute the ethics of trade unionists.

The labor group in Congress can be doubled in the coming election if advantage is taken of the present opportunity. There is energy and vitality sufficient in our movement to accomplish greater achievements and there is ability enough to bulwark and retain any advantage which may be gained by the rank and file of organized labor. Fellow-workers, enter the pending contest with grim determination to achieve; to increase labor's representation in Congress.

Fellow trade unionists, you have ever proven true to yourselves, to your time, and to humanity. The cause of the trade unionists and humanity will be best conserved by a concerted effort to augment our loyal trade unionists, now members of the legislative branch of the Government.

Men of Labor, grit your teeth, organize, unite, federate. Elect bona fide trade unionists to Congress. Get busy!

WE cannot express too great an appreciation of the work done in the interests of labor and humanity by the fifteen trade union members in the House of Representatives, by the Democratic members of both the House and Senate, as well as the assistance rendered by Progressive Republicans.

The Executive Council declares that the programme and policy, as carried on by the American Federation of Labor as authorized by its conventions, through the Executive Council, the Labor Representation Committee, and the organized workers throughout the country, is hereby reaffirmed and recommended to all, and urge that the programme and policy should be persistently pursued in the pending campaign of 1912 for the election of candidates for President, Congressmen, State Legislatures, and the Judiciary, in short, for all candidates for all political offices.

To our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens all over America, we urge that TRADE UNION MEN BE NOMINATED AND ELECTED to Municipal, County, and State offices; that Trade Union Men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

STAND FAITHFULLY BY OUR FRIENDS.
OPPOSE AND DEFEAT OUR ENEMIES, whether they be
Candidates for President,
For Congress or other offices, whether
Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.

Men of labor, stand true.

Fraternally yours,

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
JAMES DUNCAN, First Vice President.
JOHN MITCHELL, Second Vice President.
JAMES O'CONNELL, Third Vice President.
D. A. HAYES, Fourth Vice President.
WM. D. HUBER, Fifth Vice President.
JOS. F. VALENTINE, Sixth Vice President.
JOHN R. ALPINE, Seventh Vice President.
H. B. PERHAM, Eighth Vice President.
JOHN B. LENNON, Treasurer.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.
Executive Council A. F. of L.

Members of Trade Union Labor Group in Congress

CARL CAREY ANDERSON

Carl Carey Anderson, Democrat, from the Thirteenth District of Ohio, was born at Bluffton, Ohio, December 2, 1877. He began his career as a newsboy and bootblack, and only secured a partial education. Being of a musical temperament, he became interested in orchestra work, and became a member of the American Federation of Musicians.

He has been twice Mayor of Fostoria, Ohio, and now holds the position of president of the Board of Trade, as well as president of the City Hospital Board in the city mentioned.

He was elected to the Sixty-first and re-elected to the Sixty-second Congress. Mr. Anderson is a member of two committees—the Committee on the District of Columbia, and the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

He gave his colleague, Mr. Sherwood, great assistance in securing the passage of the Sherwood pension bill.

Mr. Anderson has given his continuous and consistent support to all measures affecting labor, and is one of the valued members of the labor group in Congress.

CHARLES BENNETT SMITH

Charles Bennett Smith, from the Thirty-sixth District of New York, was born in Erie County, N. Y., on September 14, 1870. In early life he became a telegraph operator and a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union. He developed a taste for newspaper work, and has held many responsible positions on the newspapers in Buffalo, and is now the owner and editor of the Niagara Falls Journal. Mr. Smith enjoys the unique distinction of having been elected to the Sixty-second Congress by a plurality of one vote. Mr. Smith is a member of three committees—the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands.

Mr. Smith has been consistent and loyal in his support of all measures in the interest of labor.

JAMES P. MAHER

James P. Maher, Democrat, from the Third District of New York, Borough of Brooklyn, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., November 3, 1865. He graduated in a prominent academy and then entered as an apprentice in the hatters' trade. Upon completing his apprenticeship he removed to Danbury, Conn., and worked as a journeyman hatter, and was later elected President of the Danbury Hat Makers' Society, and in 1897 was elected national treasurer of the United Hatters of North America. Returning to Brooklyn in 1902, he was nominated by the Democratic party for Congress in 1908, but was defeated, although making a splendid campaign and race. In 1910 he was again given the nomination for Congress, and was successful in securing election.

Mr. Maher is a member of two committees, the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Public Lands. Mr. Maher has supported all labor measures referred to the Labor Committee and his vote has always been recorded in the interest of humanitarian legislation, and is a stalwart member of the labor contingent.

JOHN A. MARTIN

John A. Martin, Democrat, from the Second District of Colorado, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, April 10, 1868. He served one term prior to his coming to Congress in the Colorado Legislature. While Mr. Martin is now an attorney by profession, he formerly was a locomotive fireman, and is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

Mr. Martin is a member of three committees, Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and Committee on Territories. Mr. Martin was first elected to the Sixty-first Congress, and was re-elected to the Sixty-second Congress. Especially during the Sixty-second Congress he has been exceedingly active, not only so far as labor measures were concerned, but on matters of general interest.

He is one of the ready debaters in the House, and has many times been called to the Speaker's Chair when the House was in session as committee of the whole. Mr. Martin will voluntarily retire as a member of Congress on March 4, next. It is to be regretted that a man of his ability, energy, and capacity should decide to cease his labors as a member of Congress.

JAMES THOMAS McDERMOTT

James Thomas McDermott, Democrat, from the Fourth district of Illinois, located in Chicago, was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., February 13, 1872. At the age of twelve he became a messenger boy for a telegraph company and later on learned telegraphy and followed for a number of years his vocation as a telegraph operator, and is a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union.

He was elected to the Sixtieth Congress and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

Mr. McDermott is a member of two committees, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Mr. McDermott has been a consistent and loyal advocate of all measures introduced on behalf of labor, and has been of valuable assistance to the members of the labor group. He has been successful in securing a renomination.

VICTOR L. BERGER

Victor L. Berger, Socialist, from the Fifth District of Wisconsin, was born at Neider Rubbuch, Austria-Hungary, February 28, 1860. He has worked at various trades and has been a teacher in the public schools. He was formerly editor of the Milwaukee Daily Vorwaerts and was for many years editor of Wahrheit (German) and the Socialist Democratic Herald (English). He was one of the organizers of the Social Democratic Party and has always been high in its councils. He is also one of the three secretaries for the United States of the International Socialist Bureau at Brussels. He was elected Alderman-at-large in the city of Milwaukee in 1910, and was elected to the Sixty-second Congress the same year. He is a member of the News Writers' Union.

Mr. Berger is a member of one committee, being that of the Committee on the District of Columbia. His votes in Congress on measures affecting labor have been favorable. He has again been nominated to make the race for the Sixty-third Congress.

WILLIAM B. WILSON.

William B. Wilson, Democrat, from the Fifteenth district of Pennsylvania, was born at Blantyre, Scotland, April 2, 1862, and came to this country with his parents in 1870 and settled at Arnot, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. At nine years of age he began work in the coal mines, and upon reaching eleven years of age became a half member of the Mine Workers' Union. He has taken an active part in trade union affairs from early life, and was International Secretary Treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America from 1900 until 1908, having been re-elected each year without opposition. He has been a delegate to the conventions of the American Federation of Labor for many years, representing the United Mine Workers. In 1910 he represented the American Federation of Labor as fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union Congress. In the coal mining town where he resides—Arnot—he has always been actively identified with the coal miners' union, as well as with those of the surrounding territory. In commemoration of the valiant assistance rendered and loyalty to the interests of the coal miners of the section referred to, the mine workers have dedicated one day each year, June 13, on which work is suspended in honor of Mr. Wilson, it being familiarly known as "Wilson Day."

Mr. Wilson was elected to the Sixtieth Congress, and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses, having been successful in three succeeding elections in defeating his wealthy Republican opponent in a district which, before the entrance into the political field of Mr. Wilson, had been normally and safely Republican. He has been renominated as a candidate for the Sixty-third Congress.

Mr. Wilson is chairman of the House Labor Committee, one of the most important committees in the House of Representatives. He is the Nestor of the labor group, and has not only the confidence of his fellow-unionists in Congress, but the admiration and good will of all members of the House, irrespective of party.

His general knowledge of the affairs of men is one of Mr. Wilson's distinguishing characteristics, and men high in the councils of the party with which he affiliates seek his advice upon important questions. His record as chairman of the Labor Committee of the House eclipses any record made by previous chairmen of this committee. The actual accomplishments of this committee thus far during the Sixty-second Congress is greater in extent and scope than the combined achievements of the Labor Committee of the House during its entire existence, from the foundation of the government up to the opening of the present Congress. Associated with Mr. Wilson upon this committee are three other trade unionists: James P. Maher of New York, David L. Lewis of Maryland, and Frank Buchanan of Illinois, who have given Mr. Wilson continuous and effective support in his committee.

Mr. Wilson is a member of three committes. As already mentioned he his chairman of the Labor Committee. In addition to this he is a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, as well as that of Mines and Mining. Mr. Wilson has not confined his activities to the measures referred to the Labor Committee, but has given valuable assistance in securing favorable action upon measures in the interest of labor that were, by their nature, referred to other committees of the House and Senate. He has been interested and gave valuable aid in the securing of a favorable report and the passage of the seaman's bill in the House. Mr. Wilson also rendered distinctive service in assisting in securing the adoption in the House of the Clayton injunction limitation and contempt bills, which were considered favorably and reported out by the Judiciary Committee of the House.

He is also the introducer and champion of an industrial education bill, which seeks to enlarge the scope of educational institutions, and provides an opportunity for the youth of the country to acquire vocational training. The work of Mr. Wilson, together with his associates, in investigating and reporting adversely on the Taylor and other systems of shop management, otherwise known as the speeding up process, was thorough and effective.

As a member of the Mines and Mining Committee he was successful in getting the Bureau of Mines act amended and strengthened.

Only the more important achievements of Mr. Wilson are here alluded to, but the record presented is sufficient to indicate the energy, faithfulness, and ability of the chairman of the Labor Committee. The record of no man serving his third term in Congress can excel that which has been made by Mr. Wilson. He has shown fidelity not only to the cause of labor, but has championed every measure which had for its purpose the protection of the rights of all the people.

The trade unionists of the entire country are extremely proud of the record made by Mr. Wilson, and rejoice in the fact that a coal miner, a trade unionist, whose life has been one of incessant and rigorous toil, has shown such conspicuous ability in the affairs of state.

DAVID JOHN LEWIS

David John Lewis, Democrat, from the Sixth District of Maryland, was born May 1, 1869, at Nuttals Bank, Center County, Pa., and began the mining of coal at nine years of age, and learned to read at Sunday School. He continued mining for fourteen years, and as a member of the Mine Workers' Union. During the years in which he was mining coal he pursued a study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in 1892.

Mr. Lewis is a member of two committees—the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Military Affairs. He was elected for the first time to the Sixty-second Congress. During his incumbency he has been of valuable assistance to the Labor Committee, and has actively championed all measures in the interest of labor.

Mr. Lewis is also a student of transportation, and is considered to be an authority on the question of transportation, so far as it has to deal with express and mail matter, and introduced a bill in Congress relative to the regulation of express companies. Upon the recent adoption of the post-office appropriation bill, which carries a provision, inaugurating a limited parcels post, Mr. Lewis was active in its support and suggested changes which were adopted.

For experimental purposes a committee was also appointed to work out many intricate details in connection with the operation of a parcels post. Heretofore it has been customary in appointing committees of this character to select from the membership of committees having in charge matters to be investigated, but in this instance a request was made from the floor of the House that Mr. Lewis be appointed to this committee, owing to his wide and extensive knowledge of the subject to be investigated and put into operation.

WE cannot express too great an appreciation of the work done in the interests of labor and humanity by the fifteen trade union members in the House of Representatives, by the Democratic members of both the House and Senate, as well as the assistance rendered by Progressive Republicans.

The Executive Council declares that the programme and policy, as carried on by the American Federation of Labor as authorized by its conventions, through the Executive Council, the Labor Representation Committee, and the organized workers throughout the country, is hereby reaffirmed and recommended to all, and urge that the programme and policy should be persistently pursued in the pending campaign of 1912 for the election of candidates for President, Congressmen, State Legislatures, and the Judiciary, in short, for all candidates for all political offices.

To our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens all over America, we urge that Trade Union Men be nominated and elected to Municipal, County, and State offices; that Trade Union Men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

> **Stand faithfully by our friends, oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be candidates for President, for Congress or other offices, whether Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.**

Men of labor, stand true.

FRANK BUCHANAN

Frank Buchanan, Democrat, from the Seventh District of Illinois, located in Chicago, was born June 14, 1862. In his early life he worked on a farm, and later became a bridge builder and structural iron worker. He was elected the International President of the Brotherhood of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers in September, 1901, and served for four successive terms, and declined to be a candidate for re-election in 1905.

Mr. Buchanan has been active in the organized labor movement for many years, and never held a political office until elected to the Sixty-second Congress. He was a candidate for Congress in the election of 1908, but was defeated. Mr. Buchanan is a member of two committees, the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Naval Affairs. He has been a close student of all matters brought to the attention of Congress, and has been conspicuous in the regularity of his attendance on sessions in the House. Mr. Buchanan has rendered valuable assistance as a member of the Committee on Labor, and like other members of the labor group, has ever been ready and has given his support by word and by his vote to every measure in Congress which had even a remote bearing upon the question of labor.

He has been given the nomination again for Congress, and will make the race for membership in the Sixty-third Congress.

ISAAC R. SHERWOOD

Isaac R. Sherwood, Democrat, from the Ninth District of Ohio, was born in Stanford, Dutchess County, N. Y., August 13, 1835. Mr. Sherwood is a journalist by profession and is a member of the Typographical Union. He served in the civil war and was made a brevet-brigadier general by President Lincoln for long and faithful service and conspicuous gallantry in numerous battles. Prior to his coming to Congress, Gen. Sherwood, as he is called, was twice elected secretary of state of Ohio, three times elected judge, and was elected to the Forty-third, Sixtieth, and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

Mr. Sherwood is a member of two committees, being chairman of the Invalid Pensions Committee and also a member of the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department.

During the present session of Congress Gen. Sherwood delivered one of the most brilliant and erudite speeches ever heard on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was a historical resume of the growing usurpation of the courts, and reviewed the contempt case of President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell, and Secretary Morrison, and severely criticised Justice Wright, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, for imposing jail sentences on the Federation officials.

Gen. Sherwood was also the author of what was commonly termed the "dollar-a-day pension bill," which, with some modifications, has become a law.

Gen. Sherwood has been a consistent and active supporter of all measures in the interest of labor, as well as all other legislation of a humanitarian character.

JOHN RICHARD FARR

John Richard Farr, Republican, from the Tenth District of Pennsylvania, was born in Scranton, Pa., July 18, 1857. In early life he became a newsboy, and later a printer and publisher, and is a member of the Typographical Union. Prior to his coming to Congress he served four years on the Scranton school board, and five terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and was speaker during the session of 1891. He was the author of the free school book and compulsory education laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Farr was elected for the first time to the Sixty-second Congress. He is a member of two committees, the Committee on Claims, and the Committee on Education. He has given his loyal support to all measures in the interest of labor, and is a valued member of the labor group in Congress.

EDWARD EWING ROBERTS

Edward Ewing Roberts, Republican, from Nevada, was born at Pleasant Grove, Sutter County, Cal., December 12, 1870. Mr. Roberts was a metal miner and a member of the Miners' Union, but later on educated himself and taught school for several years in California and Nevada, pursuing at the same time the study of the law, and was elected District Attorney of Ormsby County, Nev., in 1900, and served in that capacity five terms.

Mr. Roberts is a member of two committees—the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic and the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands. Mr. Roberts has been active in his support of all measures in which labor was interested. He has been given the nomination for Congress again.

WILLIAM HUGHES

William Hughes, Democrat, from the Sixth District of New Jersey, was born in 1872. He was elected to the Fifty-eighth and re-elected to the Sixtieth, Sixty-first, and Sixty-second Congresses. In his early life he was a textile worker, but later on studied law, and is now an attorney. Mr. Hughes, at this time, is a candidate in the coming primaries for United States Senator from New Jersey. He was author of the eight-hour bill, which recently passed Congress, and has become a law. He is a member of only one committee, perhaps the most important committee in the House of Representatives, being that of the Ways and Means.

He has given valuable service in the interest of labor, and was the author of what is now known as the "Hughes amendment," in 1910, in the vote on which, the then Republican House of Representatives went on record against the eight-hour law in the Panama Canal Zone. The record vote upon this amendment was the means of leaving "at home" many Congressmen, for the American Federation of Labor circulated millions of this record vote, and the trade unionists throughout the country responded, thereby defeating many of labor's enemies. In entering the primaries to seek the nomination for United States Senator, Mr. Hughes retires as a member of the House of Representatives on March 4 next.

ROBERT E. LEE

Robert E. Lee, Democrat, from the Twelfth district of Pennsylvania, was born in Schuylkill County, Pa. Mr. Lee was a blacksmith and worked at his trade for many years, being a member of his craft union. He was elected to the Sixty-second Congress from a district which has sent a Republican to Congress for many terms. Mr. Lee is the author of a bill which provides an extension of the Erdman act to include within its scope the coal miners of the country. The Erdman act now only applies to interstate transportation companies, and is, in effect, an arbitration plan.

Mr. Lee is chairman of the Mileage Committee of the House, and also a member of the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, and also on the Naval Affairs Committee.

Mr. Lee has been active in his support of labor and humanitarian measures and has worked in hearty accord with the labor group in Congress.

WILLIAM JOSEPH CARY

William J. Cary, Republican, from the Fourth District of Wisconsin, was born in Milwaukee, March 22, 1865. At the age of thirteen he was left an orphan and began work as a messenger boy, and at the age of eighteen he was a telegraph operator, and is now a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union.

He was elected Alderman in Milwaukee in 1900 and re-elected in 1902. He was also elected Sheriff of Milwaukee County in 1904. He was nominated for Congress on the first trial of the Wisconsin primary election law and was elected to the Sixtieth Congress and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

Mr. Cary is a member of two committees in the House, that of the District of Columbia and Committee on Education. Mr. Cary has been active in the affairs of the District of Columbia and has given his support to all labor measures and assisted the labor group consistently and continuously. He has again received the nomination for Congress.